

**UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
ARMS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
WASHINGTON**

February 8, 2007

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN,
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD (ISAB)**

**SUBJECT: Terms of Reference for an ISAB Study on Preventing a Rapid
Expansion in the Number of States Possessing Nuclear Weapons**

The ISAB is requested to undertake a study of the likelihood that a number of countries may decide to pursue development of nuclear weapons during the next decade, as well as the means to prevent this outcome.

The international community has to date been unable to roll back the North Korean and Iranian nuclear programs. North Korea withdrew from the NPT in 2003 to pursue its nuclear weapons program more openly and has suffered few consequences. Iran kept the existence of its nuclear program a secret from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for twenty years, and has pressed ahead following its exposure. These nuclear programs pose a major threat to the nonproliferation regime. Other countries may pursue similar paths. The widespread availability of much of the critical knowledge needed to produce fissile material, as well as design and build a nuclear weapon, exacerbates the problem.

It would be of great assistance for the ISAB to identify and evaluate:

- Conditions that could lead to rapid expansion in the number of nuclear-armed states.
- The efficacy of existing measures to prevent this expansion from occurring, including:
 - Diplomatic activities;
 - International treaties and norms;
 - Deterrence;
 - Security guarantees;
 - Defensive measures - (financial measures, etc.);
 - Counter-proliferation measures (PSI, 1540);

- o Export Controls; and
- o Sanctions.

- Strategies for preventing rapid nuclear weapons expansion.

During its conduct of the study, the ISAB may expand upon the tasks listed above, as it deems necessary. I request that you complete the study in 180 days. The Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security will sponsor the study. The Director for Strategic Planning and Outreach will support the study. The Executive Director will identify an Executive Secretary for the study.

The study will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of P.L. 92-463, the "Federal Advisory Board Committee Act."

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Bob Joseph". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font. The "B" is large and loops around the "o". The "J" is also large and loops around the "o". The "s" is written in a simple, cursive style. The "e" is small and loops around the "p". The "h" is written in a simple, cursive style.

Robert G. Joseph